

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 29, 2010

Reply to Attn Of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

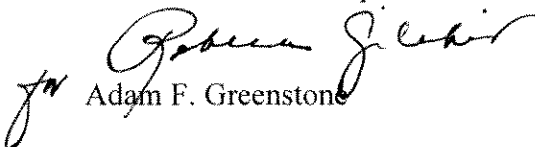
SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Falcon Hypersonic Pre-Launch Reception on April 19, 2010

On April 19, 2010, Lockheed Martin, Orbital, and DARPA, will host a reception at the Pacific Coast Club Ballroom, in Vandenberg Air Force Base, in California from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. This reception is in conjunction with the test of the Falcon Hypersonic Technology Vehicle 2 and speakers will provide a mission review.

The reception will be attended by representatives of the aerospace industry, trade associations, the media, Congress, academia, Federal agencies, and NASA personnel. Approximately 325 people have been invited and are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the reception which includes all food and beverages is \$20.00 per person. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g)(2). This event will allow NASA employees to discuss NASA's space programs with other people who are interested in aerospace issues and space development. I have determined that free attendance at the above-mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations.

Accordingly, NASA employees who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor. Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions in which Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge may only attend if they reimburse the sponsors the cost of the reception.

Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a) which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion (and no more than \$50 from one source in a calendar year). NASA invitees should not accept any gift items distributed at the reception which exceed the \$20 cap.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone